



New England Sounding Line



The newsletter of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, New England Region, Nov- Dec. 2000, Vol. 10 , No. 4

Winter Update

by John A. Stey, Associate Director



On January 3, 2001, a review team from NLM visited the University of Connecticut Health Center to discuss the NN/LM proposal. The following day the team visited the Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. The preparation for the site visit was considerable and we apologize for the lateness of this issue.

We would like to thank ARIHSL, CAHSL, HSLIC, HSL NH/VT, MAHSLIN and NAHSL for sending representatives to our day of activities. The day passed very quickly. It gave us the opportunity to reflect on the programs and services we have provided to network members for the last ten years and to articulate our vision for the next five years. Everyone was smiling at the close of a long day!

The HealthTech '00 Conference held at Baystate Medical Center on November 17th featured presentations by Warner V. Slack, M.D. of Harvard University, James J. Cimino of Columbia University and Charles Safran, M.D. of Harvard University. In addition, NER staff also participated in several workshops.

Early in January, Pam White and I attended the MLA/NLM/PLA Consumer Health Conference in Washington D.C. (see page 7) It was a seminal meeting of three organizations who are searching for common ground and collaboration, to share strategies to improve access to reliable health information for the public.

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We are currently making plans for posting the Spring Outreach RFP and setting the dates and agenda for the Annual Regional ILL/ Document Delivery meeting. Keep an eye out on NEHSL-L for these announcements. If you have items for the ILL/DD meeting, please e-mail them to me at stey@nso.uchc.edu. This important meeting, co-sponsored by NAHSL, provides an opportunity to voice your concerns and issues in the document delivery area.

Nancy Putnam will be scaling back her activities as she begins her maternity leave. Daniel Dollar and Pam White will be available for training and support for PubMed and MEDLINEplus.

We hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and look forward to Spring around the bend.

Connecticut Maine Massachusetts New Hampshire Rhode Island Vermont



Check us out on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/ner/>



**NN/LM NEW ENGLAND
REGION STAFF**

Ralph Arcari
Director

arcari@nso.uchc.edu

•
John Stey
Associate Director
stey@nso.uchc.edu

•
Marion Levine
Assistant Director
levine@nso.uchc.edu

•
Ed Donnald
Network Coordinator
donnald@nso.uchc.edu

•
Nancy Putnam
Outreach Coordinator
nputnam@nso2.uchc.edu

•
Daniel Dollar
Education Coordinator
dollar@nso.uchc.edu

•
Pam White
**Consumer Health
Coordinator**
pwhite@nso.uchc.edu

•
vacant
Technology Coordinator
staff@nnlmner.uchc.edu

•
Elizabeth Clark
Admin. Assistant
eclark@nso.uchc.edu

•
Cheryl Sinkler
Admin. Assistant
sinkler@nso.uchc.edu

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NER at the University of
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sion from creator Rose
Gonnella
Rose@PointInfinity.com

John Stey, *Editor*
Ed Donnald, *Mng. Editor*



E-Journal Titles Not Routing Properly?

NLM has been experiencing temporary difficulties in properly routing DOCLINE requests for the seventeen MEDLINE titles listed below. As is standard bibliographic practice, the titles listed have two separate bibliographic records and two ISSNs in LOCATOR*plus*, one for the print version of the title and one for the electronic version.

Currently when NLM indexes an article from the electronic version, a DOCLINE request placed via PubMed will be made for the electronic version of the title. Many of these requests are not filled, because libraries have not reported holdings for the electronic journal edition, and the DOCLINE output at NLM is not programmed to match the electronic version request to the print version.

NLM is working as quickly as possible to resolve this problem. As soon as the new indexing system is brought up, we will merge the two existing bibliographic records and the holdings listed in SERHOLD for these records so that requests within the network will route based on the title itself, not a specific version of the title. This should occur within the next two months and should correct the network routing problem.

In the interim, you are urged to identify the print version of these seventeen titles using the LOCATOR*plus* function within DOCLINE to make your ILL request using the NLM Unique ID for the print version rather than placing your request directly from PUBMED.



Tape this to
your
computer
for quick
reference.

Title (NLM Unique ID for print version)

American Journal of Kidney Diseases (8110075)
Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology (9505803)
Arthroscopy (8506498)
Circulation (0147763)
Circulation Research (0047103)
Heart (British Cardiac Society) (9602087)
Human Mutation (9215429)
Hypertension (7906255)
Journal (Canadian Dental Association) (7907605)
Journal of Medical Genetics (2985087R)
Journal of Neuroscience (8102140)
Nucleic Acids Research (0411011)
Pediatrics (0376422)
Pediatrics in Review (8103046)
Stroke (0235266)
Surgical Endoscopy (8806653)
Urology (0366151)

UCITA: A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING AND ACTION

by Alison Clapp

Children's Hospital, Boston, MA

The MAHSLIN CE Committee arranged to have our members attend the recent satellite teleconference on December 13, 2000 at Suffolk Law School. The teleconference was co-sponsored by the American Association of Law Libraries, the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries, the Medical Library Association and the Special Libraries Association. All librarians need to become familiar with UCITA (the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act).

Three of the four speakers: James Neal, Dean of University Libraries, Johns Hopkins University, Rodney Petersen, Director, Policy and Planning, Office of Information Technology, University of Maryland and Sarah Wiant, Director of the Law Library, Washington & Lee University, had recently been through the passage of UCITA in their states (Maryland and Virginia are the two states to date which have ratified the act). The fourth panelist, Catherine Wojewodzki, Reference Librarian, University of Delaware and former State Representative in the Delaware Legislature, was able to speak to recent legislative action in her state which resulted in the tabling of the bill for this legislative session in Delaware.

HISTORY

By way of very brief history, UCITA originally was intended to become an amendment to the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) which governs U.S. contract law. After multiple drafts the American Law Institute (ALI) could not agree with the proposed final draft and withdrew its support. The National Commissioners of Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) at that time decided to change the name of the proposed amendment to UCITA, the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act. Since it would not become part of the UCC which is accepted by most states, the alternate route for adoption is to present the act to each state legislature for ratification.

WHAT DOES IT COVER

Not only libraries but also the information technology departments within our institutions should be particularly concerned with this proposal. It has wide-ranging implications for all information in digital format including but not limited to computer software, databases, images, sound and textbooks. Additionally, the act pays particular attention to shrink-wrap and click-through licenses. The two types of licenses covered are mass market licenses such as general retail or consumer licenses and specific one-on-one contracts usually aimed at industry. Under UCITA the general copyright guidelines which we have used for print and subsequently electronic media no longer govern what we do as UCITA takes precedence (in spite of the fact that the Millennium Copyright Act <http://www.arl.org/info/frn/copy/dmca.html> was passed specifically to include digital media).

Under UCITA the general copyright guidelines which we have used for print and subsequently electronic media no longer govern what we do.

SUPPORTERS

Major supporters are AOL, Microsoft and several of the large publishers. A primary tactic when the legislation is introduced into a new state legislature for passage is to say that adopting this legislation makes the state "technology-friendly". Additional arguments given by supporters are that the legislation helps to promote e-commerce activities in the state, will help the economic development of the state, offers a legal framework for businesses and consumers and will be part of a larger series of government legislation including strengthened computer crime laws.

PROBLEMS

1. Privileges granted under the Copyright Act (e.g. fair use) would now be governed by non-negotiable license terms. For instance, libraries could continue to loan books but not the CD Rom version of that book. UCITA concentrates on the licensing arrangement not fair use.

Continued on page 4

2. UCITA prevents reverse engineering. Universities in particular are very concerned with this provision. Often they will take a software's source code, break it down and rewrite it. UCITA would prevent any such changes.
3. Software vendors would no longer be liable for damage caused to consumers by known defects in their product.
4. Vendors can use something referred to as "Self-Help" which gives them the right to shut off access or disable software based on the terms of a contract. For instance, late payment can result in abrupt termination of service.
5. UCITA provides for Choice of Law/Choice of Forum which means the vendor can determine what court you can sue in if you have problems with a product/software. Litigation costs could prevent injured parties from taking their case to court.
6. Another major area libraries would notice a difference in is that UCITA prohibits comment on digital products. The software reviews we are used to seeing in *JAMA*, *Annals of Internal Medicine* and numerous library journals could be prohibited under this act.
7. Additionally, our ability to negotiate licenses will be affected by this legislation. Shrink-wrap and click-through licenses are validated and enforceable. In the case of shrink-wrap licenses, you agree to licensing terms without knowing what they are just by opening the product.
8. There will be a wider gap between the information "haves" and information "have-nots" and partly this is due to the fact that UCITA will definitely raise the cost of doing business.

The ALA website <http://www.ala.org/washoff/ucita/controversial.html> provides a good review of the inherent problems with UCITA.

Another resource with an abbreviated description of the problems with UCITA for the consumer is at: <http://www.infoworld.com/cgi-bin/displayStory.pl?features/990531ucita3.htm>

ACTION AT THE STATE LEVEL

Much of the rest of the conference focused on the specific actions taken by various groups, including the library community, opposing this legislation. With the exception of Rhode Island, UCITA has not been introduced into any New England state legislature for consideration. I do not have space to detail the many good ideas for getting the library community's viewpoint heard.

The overriding message is that you need to hit your legislators early and often with information. This is a prime opportunity to educate them about our involvement with digital resources and about copyright protection. UCITA will have an impact on our ability to provide free and equitable access to information. This message needs to be delivered to the state legislature.

Another key point is that we need to work with many other groups including information technology professionals within our own institutions and elsewhere. A grass-roots effort needs to attract broad support from all affected parties.

FURTHER RESOURCES

The 200 page original of the Act: <http://www.law.upenn.edu/bll/ulc/ucita/citam99.htm>

The proponents viewpoint: <http://www.ucitaonline.com/> provides information

Anti-UCITA viewpoint:

American Library Association <http://www.ala.org/washoff/ucita/index.html>

Association of Research Libraries <http://www.arl.org/info/frn/copy/ucitapg.html>

National Consumer Law Center <http://www.consumerlaw.org/ucita/>

InfoWorld has covered UCITA frequently in Ed Foster's Gripe Line and other columns:

<http://www.infoworld.com/articles/op/xml/00/07/03/000703opfoster.xml>

<http://www.infoworld.com/articles/op/xml/00/07/10/000710opfoster.xml>

<http://www.infoworld.com/articles/hn/xml/00/10/26/001026hnucita.xml>

The information for the above summary comes primarily from the handout provided to the teleconference participants. The New England Region of NN/LM has ordered the videotape of the teleconference which they are making available for loan. For further information about borrowing the tape call (800)338-7657.

Spell Checker for MEDLINE^{plus}

by Naomi Miller, Systems Librarian, NLM

MEDLINE^{plus} now features a spell checker in its search engine. The checker suggests alternative words if it does not find the term you typed. For example, if you type the word "hepatitus" into the search box on the main screen, the spell checker offers to replace it with "hepatitis." From the Advanced Search page, you may choose to search with spell checking or without spell checking.

We hope that this will help users of MEDLINE^{plus} who are unfamiliar with medical terminology.

Finding and Using Health Statistics: A Self-Study Course

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/usestats/index.htm>



Health statistics can be difficult to track down. They are also difficult to use because they feature information collected from competing perspectives. This class presents sources of statistics based on four broad areas: health correlates, health conditions, health care and health consequences. It puts statistics, particularly government statistics, in context by providing explanations of the rationale behind data collection. That is, why are specific federal agencies collecting data and what purpose will this data serve, in terms of health policy and planning? Further, the class demonstrates how to identify and find important results; assess the benefits and limitations of these results; and progress from summaries to detailed original reports. Instruction in this self-study class is reinforced by a series of 15 exercises.

The course developer and instructor, Dr. Dan Melnick, previously directed the federal government's Office of Applied Studies, which reports statistics for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. He also served as a Division Director for the National Science Foundation and as a Specialist in Federal Statistical Policy at the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. The course is based on Dr. Melnick's latest book, *Portrait of Health in the United States* expected to be published in January 2001 by Bernan Press.

SERHOLD Union List Products

DOCLINE users may have already taken a look at some of the SERHOLD Union List Products that became available at the end of October. They include Holdings by Library Group and Holdings by State/Province. There is also a holdings by Region available to the NN/LM Network Coordinator. If this is a report you are interested in, please contact the office. To view the Union List Products, click SERHOLD and then Reports. The link to the reports is in the lower left corner. Each list is available in Standard Format, for printing and reading or Delimited Format, used for importing into a database or spreadsheet.

These reports are updated on a quarterly basis according to the following schedule. Updates begin at 3 p.m. ET on Friday and are usually completed by 11 p.m. ET on Sunday. During the update, you will not be able to access that category of union list products (e.g., if Holdings by Library Group are being updated, you will not be able to access any Holdings by Library Group Union List products).

Update Schedule

Holdings by Library Group:

January 5-7, 2001
April 6-8, 2001
July 6-8, 2001
October 5-7, 2001

Holdings by State/Province:

February 2-4, 2001
May 4-6, 2001
August 3-5, 2001
November 2-4, 2001

Holdings by Region:

March 2-4, 2001
June 1-3, 2001
September 7-9, 2001
November 30 - December 2, 2001

MEDLINEplus Consumer Health Library Links

by Pam White, Consumer Health Coordinator

The following New England Medical Libraries are now listed on the MEDLINEplus Libraries page:

Connecticut

- Hartford Hospital <http://www.harthosp.org/library>
- HealthNet: Connecticut Consumer Health Information Center <http://library.uchc.edu/departm/hnet/>
- Waterbury Hospital Health Center <http://www.waterburyhospital.com/library/consumer.shtml>
- University of Connecticut Health Center: HealthNet <http://library.uchc.edu/departm/hnet/>

Massachusetts

- Bay State Health System <http://www.baystatehealth.com/1024/3861/>
- Beth Israel Deaconess Learning Center <http://www.bidmc.harvard.edu/oldsite/healthwell/learningcenter/index.html>
- Boston University School of Medicine <http://med-libwww.bu.edu/library/lib.html>
OR <http://med-libwww.bu.edu/library/baiop.html>
- Mary Lane Hospital's Community Health Information Center <http://www.baystatehealth.com/1025/2058/2715/>
- New England Baptist Hospital http://www.nebh.org/health_lib.asp
- St. Luke's Hospital <http://www.ultranet.com/~stlukes/slh.htm>
- Treadwell Library at Massachusetts General Hospital <http://www.mgh.harvard.edu/library/chrcindex.html>
- University of Massachusetts at Worcester <http://healthnet.umassmed.edu/>

Maine

- Southern Maine Medical Center <http://www.smmc.org/services/service.php3?choice=10>
- Parkview Hospital <http://www.parkviewhospital.org/communit.htm#Library>
- Franklin Memorial Hospital <http://www.fchn.org/fmh/lib.htm>
- Western Maine Health (Select Health Information Library) <http://www.wmhcc.com/>

New Hampshire

- Gale Medical Library (Click on Consumers) <http://www.littletonhospital.org/Gale%20Medical%20Library/Index.htm>

This list was determined by searching the NN/LM members database, <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/members/> with the following criteria: *libraries with web pages and collections that are open to consumers*. If you believe your library should be included on this list, please check your Network profile in your DOCUSER record or contact Pam White at pwhite@nso.uchc.edu.

Say Good-bye to the Paper

Beginning with the May-June 2001 issue of the *New England Sounding Line*, Volume 11, Number 1, this newsletter will only be available electronically on the NN/LM NER website. [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/ner>] Both HTML and PDF formats will be available. If you are still interested in getting the NESL but won't have access to the website, please contact the office at (860) 679-4500.

The Public Library and Consumer Health

by Pam White, Consumer Health Coordinator

The first Public Library and Consumer Health conference, sponsored by the Public Library Association, Medical Library Association, and National Library of Medicine, was held January 10-11, 2001. A relatively even mix of public and medical librarians attended the conference, with an intentionally intimate number of attendees.

Dr. Tom Ferguson gave the keynote address. An advocate for self-help via the Internet, Dr. Ferguson suggested librarians become involved by sitting in on online self help groups and linking to them from health information sites. Heidi Sandstrom, Coordinator of Consumer Health Information Services for the NN/LM PSR, then talked about the evolution of consumer health information services and the NLM's involvement.

Offered workshops included *Planning and Managing the Consumer Health Library*; *Consumer Health Information on the Internet*; *National Library of Medicine Resources*; *Fundraising and Grantwriting Strategies*; and *Finding and Understanding Evidence-Based Literature*. My attendance at the workshop on library management, by Michelle Spatz, allowed me to gain the perspective of many different public librarians.

On the second day of the conference, Dr. Donald Lindberg began the afternoon with a presentation on the National Library of Medicine's strategic planning regarding consumer health information. Two panels followed Dr. Lindberg's address: *Promoting Health Literacy Through NLM/Public Library Partnerships* and *Funding Health Information Access*.

Carla Funk announced The Medical Library Association's Consumer Health Credentialing Program, <http://www.mlanet.org/education/chc/index.html>. Retroactive credit is available for approved courses taken since January 1998. It is possible to gain credit for some non-MLA educational activities. After visiting the web site, please contact the Medical Library Association at info@mlahq.org if you have questions.

The opportunities to meet librarians from many types of library settings helped to make this a successful conference.

Hoax or Hassle?

by Ed Donnald, Network Coordinator

Do you remember Melissa, ever wondered would you really "Win A Holiday" or tried to tell others to beware of Good Times? We've all been sent the dire warnings from well intentioned friends to look out for nasty software programs hitch-hiking around cyberspace on e-mail or been advised to "pass this on to 10 of your friends." Threats of C: drive crunching havoc or promises of easy reward are consuming valuable time and resources. But how can you be sure that the e-mail you just opened up is a virus alert to be taken seriously or an urban legend spreading it's lore across the Internet?

Don't panic and don't immediately send the warning to everyone in your address book or the lists that you're subscribed to. Besides causing unnecessary worry for others, you are passing along the list of e-mail addresses from everyone who has gotten the message thus far. Use the list of websites below to investigate further and determine the validity of the warning. You would be truly surprised at what gets taken as "fact."

Resources for Urban Legends and Chain Letters

- Urban Legends Reference Page
<http://www.snopes.com/>
- Chain Letters and Links
<http://www.autodream.com/chain/>
- Internet Chain Letters
<http://HoaxBusters.ciac.org/>
- About.com Urban Legends and Folklore
<http://urbanlegends.about.com/index.htm>
- Tales of the Wooden Spoon
<http://www.snopes.com/spoons/spoons.htm>
- The AFU Urban Legends Archive
<http://www.urbanlegends.com/>

Virus Hoaxes

- Symantec / Norton Antivirus Center
<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/>
- Dr. Solomon Virus Center
<http://www.drsolomon.com/vircen/index.cfm>
- Virus Hoaxes: Not Just Harmless Pranks
<http://vil.nai.com/VIL/hoaxes.asp>
- Datafellow Hoax Warnings
<http://www.europe.datafellow.com/news/hoax.htm>
- McAfee Virus Information Library
<http://vil.mcafee.com/>
- Hoax Du Jour
<http://korova.com/virus/hoax.htm>
- Computer Virus Myths
<http://www.Vmyths.com/>



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<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/>

Articles:

- NLM Gateway: Your Entrance to the Knowledge Resources of the National Library of Medicine - e1
- NLM adds Drug Information and Medical Encyclopedia to MEDLINEplus - e2
- MEDLINE Indexed Citations and Corrections Temporarily on Hold - e3
- What's New for 2001 MeSH - e4

Technical Notes - e5:

- New Version of the NLM Gateway
- 2001 MeSH Browser Available
- NLM Leases MEDLINE and other Databases in XML Format at No Charge in 2001
- Finding and Using Health Statistics: A Self Study Course
- Public Working Draft Version of Human Sequence Available

Appendixes:

- 2001 Update Schedule for MEDLINE on PubMed

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine
New England Region
University of Connecticut Health Center
263 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06030-5370

Return Address Correction Requested



NLM Gateway Brochure

An NLM Gateway Basics brochure has been created to go along with similar PubMed and Internet Grateful Med publications. In addition, the PubMed Basics brochure was recently updated. You can find these publications as PDF files on the New England Region's Education page at

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/education>. (These brochures can also be found on the NN/LM's NLM Database Information page, **<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nlm/online>**, under the appropriate link for each NLM resource.)

Please note that due to software and hardware limitations, you may have difficulty downloading one or both of these publications. If you are unable to obtain these publications online, please let the office know and we will mail you a copy.

As always, feel free to call on the New England Region office at 1-800-338-7657, if we can be of any assistance with NLM resources and training.

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